MM Docket 93-48

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 1919 M Street NW Washington, DC 20554 E-mail kidstvofcc.cov



September 14, 1995

The FCC's request for public comment shows an understanding of the worry Americans feel about a genuinely life-threatening cancer in American society - violence in the media.

Is there another issue you can name that has captured the attention of so many citizens? Is there another crisis short of war that could have driven so many groups to take a stand? Scan this partial list of national organizations that have publicly stated their support for a reduction in violence and vulgarity on TV:

The American Medical Association

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The American Medical Alliance

The American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Psychological Association

The American Psychiatric Association

The Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists

The American Nurses Association

The American Academy of Nursing

The National PTA

The National School Boards Association

The American Association for School Administrators

The National Sheriffs Association

The National Child Care Association

The National Association of Social Workers

The National Council of Churches
The National Assoc. for Family and Community Education

The American Family Association

The Foundation to Improve TV

Alliance Against Violence in Entertainment for Children

Canada's Association for Media Literacy

Pope John Paul II

There is an infinitely longer list of outraged state and local agencies.

If this were a false alarm - if there were serious doubt that the media's violence and prurience are nurturing & frighteningly violent scalety - then perhaps the FCC and the media could delay action in good conscience. But study

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after study, criminal investigation after criminal investigation, and murder after senseless murder confirms for all of us that we are on a very dangerous path. Murders and beatings are daily fare; and often the cause is a violent reaction to mundane problem.

Are media executives and shareholders willing to live in suburbs like those in South Africa, surrounded by high walls topped with concertina wire, in order to make the extra doilars that violent shows generate? Are they and we willing to see our political and social systems fail, because our citizenry believes more in violent responses than in our political and judicial systems?

It is said that there is even honor among thieves. Surely there is enough honor in the media industry to form agreements to promote the nation's welfare and refrain from encouraging basic violent instincts.

We are writing on behalf of the Academy for Family TV and the countless citizens who share our deep concern. We are a civilized, moderate community of legislators, professionals in medicine and law, educators and businessmen, parents, and proactive citizens. There is not a fanatic among us. Yet we are angry... having to control the impulses that TV, movies, and rap would encourage us to unleash.

It is past time to strengthen the Childrens' Television Act. It is past the time when defining a given percentage of the television day as children's time is enough. TV is profoundly affecting the thoughts and habits not only of small children, but of adolescents, young adults, and mature adults - all of whom show increasing hostility, bitterness, lack of faith in the nation, and violence toward humanity. Even those of us who abhor unnecessary intrusion by the federal government have reached the end of our patience.

The FCC must obtain a commitment by the TV industry to greatly reduce the violence, vulgarity, and prurience being broadcast, and hold all stations to it; or the FCC must introduce legislation to force the issue.

The future of our children- indeed the future of our nation-depends upon it.

Respectfully

Randi Holland and David Camp Academy for Family Television

2500 NE 65th Av

Vancouver, Wa. 98661

By signing this letter of petition, I express my profound concern over the effects of television violence, sex, and vulgarity. I ask the FCC to take a very strong stand in turning back the tide of destructive influences that are flooding American homes and minds.

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October 9, 1995

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 1919 M Street NW Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Sirs:

I am writing to state my emphatic and complete objection to the evening hours programming of ABC, CBS, and NBC television networks.

The level of language, violence, sex, and acts of aggression against people is deplorable. At a time when acts of violence in preteen and teenagers is on the rise to levels not believable ten years ago, when teenagers are killing teenagers with every possible type of weapon, when violence in our schools is one of the two most important concerns across our nation, and sexual harassment is a major focus in the workplace and schools, how can we allow such flagrantly negative programming to take place?

I realize that we accepted, as a society, the idea that marijuana had no negative effects on the human body for at least twenty years before the affects of continued use became apparent and provable to us. We are taking the same approach with television programming when we try to sell the idea that children can separate the reality of life from the make believe of TV, so that it doesn't matter what they see. The evidence is in! Examine the incidence of teenage crime in America. Compare it to the types of crime shown on TV. It is no wonder "blowing someone away," swearing and vulgarity, and threatening people either one-to-one or small groups intimidating someone are such common acts by teenagers. The really scary thing to me is teenagers become adults. We are still living with the "pot" generation and the effects on our society. It was the springboard to today's drug culture. Where will we be twenty years from now with the violence and intimidation issues?

I urge you to take the steps necessary to bring television back into a responsible programming mode!

Sincerely,

January Jagy Lorren Hagen 1-509-476-4524 RT 1 HD. 2108 OROVITE, wa 98844

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Issaquah School District No. 411

TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY O

Superintendent William H. Stewart

Regional Assistant Superintendents
Douglas R. Snyder
Richard W. Semler
Margaret M. Moore

October 13, 1995

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: Children's Television Act

To Whom it May Concern:

The Issaquah School District's Board of Directors wishes to vigorously support the letter sent to you by Phyllis Bunker Frank, President of the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). Ms. Frank urged you, through legislative action, to obtain and enforce a commitment by the television industry to greatly reduce the violence, vulgarity and prurience being broadcast.

Issaquati is a lovely area located about 30 minutes east of Seattle, Washington. Our area is growing rapidly and our school population has increased dramatically in the past five years. Not only have the numbers increased, but we see an alarming increase in the number of troubled youth we serve. We recognize there are many factors involved in helping students evercome temptations, make good choices for themselves in their lives, and he successful. We believe it is imperative that we ALL contribute, with whatever means we can, to this effort.

lelevision is a powerful presence in our society. We believe it can be a very positive presence as well, but only if it is used responsibly. We know that this involves the participation and wisdom of parents as well. However, as adults and persons in a position to influence positive actions, we urge you to do all you can to assure that responsible television programming becomes the norm, not the exception, in our country. We join with the WSSDA to urge the FCC to recommend legislation that will resolve this vital issue.

As Ms. Frank stated, children are our greatest legacy. It is in the best interests of all of us that they are served effectively.

Sincerely,

David W. Irons, President

Board of Directors

xc: P. B. Frank, WSSDA

Board of Directors

Constance L. Fletcher • David W. Irons • Darlene Mar 'Ron • Mary Scott • Jan A. Yalowitz
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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT **PSYCHIATRY**

OFFICE OF SECRETARY October 16, 1995

Council

Federal Communications Commission

William H. Ayres, M.D.

1919 M Street, NW

Washington, DC 20554

President-Elect

Lawrence A. Stone, M.D.

Richard L. Cohen, M.D.

Re: MM Docket No. 93-48: Policies and Rules Concerning Children's Television

Programming: Revision of Programming Policies for Television Broadcast

Stations.

Clarice J. Kestenbaum, M.D. Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners Chong, Quello, Barrett and Ness:

David B. Pruitt, M.D.

Chair, Regional Assembly of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Karl W. Stevenson, M.D.

Marilyn B. Benoit, M.D. Barbara Buchanan, M.D. Ian A. Canino, M.D. Barbara J. Coffey, M.D. Martin J. Drell, M.D. Paul Fine, M.D. Robert J. Harmon, M.D. Joseph J. Palombi, M.D. Diane K. Shrier, M.D. Sharon Weinstein. M.D. Resident Member Kelly V. Holmes, M.D.

As President of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, I am writing to support changes in the rules regarding the broadcast of television programming for children. By strengthening the implementation of the Children's Television Act of 1990, you will provide broadcasters with a specific incentive to develop educational programs with appropriate scheduling.

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) represents over 6,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists, physicians who have at least five years of additional training beyond medical school in general and child and adolescent psychiatry. Members of the Academy are experts in understanding the developmental levels and emotional responses of children and adolescents. For many years, we have urged the adoption of high standards of children's programming and warned of the damage done from setting them low. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute significantly to sound child development.

We join many other interested individuals and organizations in urging the Federal Communications Commission to adopt the strongest, clearest standard within its authority. In some cases, stronger rules than those proposed are called for. Specifically, you should:

Journal Editor John F. McDermott, M.D.

Executive Director Virginia Q. Anthony

AACAP News Editor Martin J. Drell, M.D.

Program Committee Chairman Barry Nurcombe, M.D.

- Require each licensee to air at least one hour per day of qualified children's programming, with the core programming done in a regularly scheduled, noshorter-than-thirty-minute segments, specifically designed to educate and inform children.
- Define qualified children's programming to include only programs that are specifically designed to educate or inform children, and which are aired after 7:00 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m.; and
 - Prohibit "trading," or taking credit for hours already being aired on PBS or other stations.

3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20016-3007 202-966-7300 (Fax) 202-966-2891

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FCC letter October 16, 1996 page 2

As physicians who are trained in child and adolescent psychiatry, we are especially concerned that regulators and programmers recognize that television programming does not have a fixed good or bad influence on children. We can deplore excessive violence on television and support programs that teach positive skills for living, but it is important to understand that some children react differently than others to television.

There are two groups of children that must be considered when implementing the 1990 Children's Television Act. First, there are children who are helped by watching television. These children, through some circumstance, are deprived of access to information that would help guide them to productive adulthood. This deprivation can be adjusted through the use of "safe harbor" scheduling of quality educational programming. All children move through developmental stages and would respond to programming that addresses different levels of maturity -- rather than being exposed to only a composite group known as "children's programs." Providing a safe television harbor for children during the after school hours is like giving them a safe place to come home to after school. Rather than being exposed to highly sexualized soap operas, children should have the protection of programming that reflects their own developmental stage.

Allowing broadcasters to program for children based on the lowest common denominator is to throw away the opportunity to improve the lives of millions of youngsters and those who are and will be part of their lives.

The second group is children who are harmed by watching television. The harm is done when children are exposed to programming that is inappropriate for their developmental age. The results are the reverse of the first group. Deprivation is amplified when it could be eased. To avoid this, it is so important that the FCC require broadcasters to define their scheduling and programming designed to educate and inform children. This will give children an opportunity to view appropriate programs on a regular basis at a time when television viewing would normally be done.

A third point can be raised with broadcasters who are reluctant to accept new, firmer standards because of the perception that children's educational programming is unprofitable. There is an apparent lack of recognition of the global market that is waiting for children's programming to be produced and exported. This country is far ahead of most countries in the technical production and distribution of television programs but has yet to realize the economic rewards that would come from offering children's television programming on the global market.

FCC letter October 16, 1995 Page 3

Thank you for considering these comments. A decision by the FCC to strengthen the implementation of the 1990 Children's Television Act would be applauded by all child and adolescent psychiatrists.

Sincerely,

William H. Ayres, M.D.

President

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To: Federal Communication Commission 1919 M. Street N.W. Washington D.C. 20554

RE: MM-93-48

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to children's educational and informational programming. I am a concerned citizen who would like to request, as a contingency of licensing renewal, that networks provide a minimum of seven hours per week of educational and informational programming between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00 pm. I would also like definitive guidelines to be place on what can be classified as educational and informational programming. In essence, I do not want shows to make one reference to an academic term and be allowed to call it an educational show.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to be heard. Networks thrive on today's children and it is time for them to invest in tomorrow's adults.

Sincerely,

Le m. Stevens

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Sincerely,

C.M. Down

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1919 M. Street N.W.

Washington D.C. 20554

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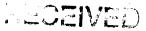
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